

Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn
Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1937.



REPORT

— OF —

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Urban
District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1937.

The Public Health Officers of the Urban District are the Medical Officer of Health (part time) and Mr. A. Penbryn-Roberts, who combines the duties of Sanitary Inspector, Highways Surveyor, and Water Manager.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—7,224 acres.

Estimated population—4,708.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 according
to the rate book—1,546.

Rateable value—£22,059.

Sum represented by penny rate—£85.

The industries of the Town are still unchanged, a number of female workers being employed in the new textile industry at the premises of the Kymric Mills.

During the present time employment at the New Service Reservoir and Impounding Reservoir has been found for a number of male workers of the Town.

The usual fortnightly auctions for cattle, sheep and pigs are conducted at the Smithfield while the monthly sale of horses at the Repository are still flourishing.

The recreation and sport facilities are taken advantage of by all classes.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births		71	40	31
	{ Legitimate .....	.....	37	30
	{ Illegitimate.....	.....	3	1

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 15.0 compared with 12.2 in 1936 and 14.9 for England and Wales.

		Total.	M.	F.
Still Births		1	0	1
	{ Legitimate .....	.....	0	1
	{ Illegitimate.....	.....	0	0

The rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 13.8.

		Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	.....	83	42	41

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 15.3.

Deaths from puerperal causes	.....	1
Puerperal sepsis	.....	0
Other puerperal causes	.....	1

Death of rate of infants under one year of age :—

	Total.	M.	F.
	3	2	1
Legitimate		2	0
Illegitimate.....		0	1

The rate is per 1,000 live births, all infants	42.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000, live births	28.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000, live births	14.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....	0

Causes of Death.

Influenza	.....	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....		4
Other Tuberculosis	.....	0
Cancer.....		11
Diabetes	.....	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....		4
Heart Disease.....		25
Other Circulatory diseases	.....	7
Bronchitis	.....	7
Pneumonia	.....	3
Appendicitis	.....	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	.....	2
Congenital debility, malformation, etc.		1

Senility	.....	.....	.....	4
Puerperal disease	.....	.....	.....	1
Violence	.....	.....	.....	4
Other defined diseases	.....	.....	.....	6

The health of the district does not have appeared to suffer from the conditions of environment or occupation. Unemployment shows no evidence of having any influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

No change has been made in the services provided under the following heads :—

- (a) Laboratory facilities.
- (b) Ambulance facilities.
- (c) Nursing in the home.
- (d) Treatment centres and clinics.
- (e) Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.

A private firm provides ambulance facilities for general cases which continues to be satisfactory and sufficient for the district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—During the year 4 samples of water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination were taken and each report states the water to be of excellent quality and fit for drinking purposes with recommendation for the use of lead pipes as little as possible.

The pressure Filters which were erected during 1936 are working in a satisfactory manner, whilst at present work is being carried out at the New Service Reservoir and also the Impounding Reservoir. Also during the year 5,180 yards

of water main were scraped being the 2-ins., 3-ins. and 4-ins. mains in the Town, new valves were also fitted in many parts of the Town.

I give the results of the examination of the water taken on the 27th July.

(1) Chemical.

			<i>Parts per</i> 100,000.	<i>Grains per</i> gallon.
Total solids (dried at 120oC.)	.....	.....	12.00	8.40
Combined Chlorine (as Cl)	.....	.....	1.10	0.77
equivalent to Na Cl.	.....	.....	1.82	1.27
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	.....	.....	0.04	0.03
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrates).....	.....	.....	Nil.	Nil.
Ammoniacal nitrogen	.....	.....	0.0008	0.0006
Albuminoid nitrogen	.....	.....	0.0018	0.0012
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27oC.	.....	.....	0.028	0.009
Lead or Copper	.....	.....	Nil.	Nil.
Temporary hardness (equivalent to CaCO)	.....	.....	4.5	3.1
Permanent hardness (" " " ").....			3.5	2.4
Total hardness (" " " ").....			8.0	5.5

(2) Bacteriological.

Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates, incubated at 20°C. for three days	39 per c.c.
Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates, incubated at 37.5°C. for four days	7 per c.c.
B. coli	not found in 100 c.c.
Streptococci	not found in 30 c.c.
Cl. Welchii (spores)	not found in 100 c.c.

Remarks.

The results show this water to be of excellent quality and quite satisfactory for drinking purposes.

The results of the other examinations of the water are much the same as in the above.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Apart from connections to new dwelling houses there have been no important extensions of the sewerage system. The general arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewerage disposal continue to be satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was found necessary to be taken in order to check the pollution of the Severn.

Closet Accommodation.—There has been no change in the conservancy system during the year. There are 977 water closets and 122 privies in the area and the latter all outside the sewerage system.

Public Cleansing.—The few cesspools for which the Council are responsible are cleansed regularly. The daily collection and destruction of house refuse continues to be carried out in a satisfactory manner.

ANNUAL SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

(a) The following inspections were made during the year :—

Nuisances—217.

Schools—22.

Factories and Workshops—49.

Slaughter Houses—31.

Infectious Disease —20.

Cow Sheds—42.

(b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing Statutory from Informal.

(1) Informal Notices.

	<i>Notices served.</i>	<i>Complied with.</i>	<i>Uncomplied with.</i>
Defects in Water Closets	57	57	0
Defects in Drains	49	49	0
Cleansing after infectious disease	8	8	0
Defects in eavestrough	9	9	0
Cowsheds	8	8	0
Other Cases	5	5	0
Total	136	136	0

(2) Statutory Notices.

Nuisances	6	6	0
Disinfection and cleansing	3	3	0
Total	9	9	0

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices.</i>	<i>Prosecuted</i>
Factories	16	3	Nil
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops.....	36	7	Nil
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces.....	8	Nil	Nil
(Other than Outworkers' premises)			

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Referred</i>	
			<i>to H.M.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
			<i>Inspector.</i>	
Want of Cleanliness	9	9	—	—
Want of Ventilation	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient.....	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of Under-ground Bakehouses (s.101)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	17	17	—	—

Shops.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Shop Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement.

There has been no nuisance arising from smoke in the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no private or public swimming baths or pools in the area.

Schools.

The three elementary and one secondary school have been regularly inspected during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts)	48
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	91
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	48
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	91

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year with service of Formal Notices :—

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	42
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 : Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
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Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a)	By Owners	8
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By Owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made Nil

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenements having been rendered fit Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1935.—Overcrowding :

(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year 14

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 15

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 79

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after which the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it advisable to report :

My Council have 12 houses in course of erection but complete occupation will not take place until early in 1938.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The premises of retailers have been regularly inspected and generally are kept in a cleanly condition. The County Council undertake samples for bacterial contents and tubercule bacilli.

(b) **Meat and other Foods.**—There are 6 fried fish and chips shops in the district and 4 retailers of fresh fish ; they have been regularly inspected and found kept in a cleanly condition.

6 Private slaughter houses are situated in the Urban Area, one of these is not of good construction, and efforts are being made to have same closed or reconditioned. There are 8 butchers' shops in the area, 7 retailing home-killed meat, and one imported meat. These are regularly inspected and kept in a satisfactory condition.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (approx.)	325	103	77	2435	460
Number inspected	85	25	30	135	60
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i> Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i> Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) **Adulteration.**—No action taken.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**
—No action taken, and no provision made with any laboratory.

(e) **Nutrition.**—No special work has been done on the subject of nutrition.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1937.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Scarlet Fever	 4	—	—
Pneumonia.....	 7	2	3
Erysipelas	 4	—	—

The ages of the Scarlet Fever cases were : 6, 10, 11, 12.

The ages of the Pneumonia cases were : 6, 10, 30, 30, 36, 60, 62.

The ages of Erysipelas cases were : 30, 38, 55, 56.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No change in the situation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There are no persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

During the year there were notified three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary. The latter case was eventually found to be non-tubercular.

The pulmonary cases were all females, aged 28, 33, 41. There were four deaths : three females aged 21, 41, 59, all respiratory one male, non-respiratory death, aged 41.

Notification of the disease is efficiently carried out, there being no deaths of non-notified cases.

The assistance of the Tuberculosis Physician is called up in all Tubercular cases.

I beg to record the valuable help and assistance rendered to me at all times by the various Officials of the Council.

I am,

Yours obediently,

A. SHEARER,

Medical Officer of Health.

16th June, 1938.







